

## ABSTRACT

The invention encompasses a screening method for identifying cytokine responsiveness of a human or a veterinary animal and products and assays for use therein comprising flavanols, procyanidins and/or derivatives thereof, or mixtures thereof, a  
5 method for diagnosing a cytokine phenotype in a human or a veterinary animal; methods for identifying a subject at risk of a condition associated with an inflammatory and/or immunomodulating pathway; methods for identifying a dietary and/or a pharmaceutical intervention to modulate a condition associated with an inflammatory and/or immunomodulating pathway; and the methods of prophylactic or therapeutic treatment of  
10 humans or veterinary animals with selected flavanols, procyanidins and/or derivatives thereof, or mixtures thereof.